

# Operation Cover-Up

## Towing the Line on Core Values

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With “101 Critical Days” of summer starting this month, I want to talk to you about the big one that got away. No, I’m not talking about the fish. I’m talking about the reportable mishaps that were never reported to the Safety Office at your base. Need examples?

I’ll let you determine if these unreported losses are isolated situations: How about the individual who was pushing a pallet off of the 40K loader onto the flightline, fell through a hole that had a broken roller removed and broke his leg (\$3,340 after surgery); the F-15 Stabilator that was damaged by a stand (\$52,117); or the Air Crew Step Van that was started up, left unattended, and caught fire (\$23,103). Who did you share this information with? No one...because of fear of embarrassment or disciplinary action? You have now just caused another chain of events that affects everyone around you and for people that you will never know or meet.

With damaged property, i.e., removed from the scene of the mishap, being repaired, telling investigators a different story of how you were injured, or reporting the accident days later after you have sobered up from an accident, you have put the Safety office into a situation called, “Losing the Investigation.”

This is not a safety culture that has been instilled into the Air Force. This is an act of individual choice that reflects upon the individuals themselves and notably has some long-term effects toward the Air Force, whether it is the base or organization coughing up the money for repairs or skewing the reportable mishap as